

ARIZONA NEW YEAR'S

HOW THE RECKLESS COWBOY CELEBRATES THE DAY.

Exhibits His Skill in Roping Cattle. The Call to Dinner—Help Yourself From Roasted Quarters of Beef, Dancing in the Evening.

Roughly lettered posters of wrapping paper for weeks had announced that a cowboy tournament and fiesta Mexicana would be held on New Year's day at Agua Caliente.

Two races, each of four heats, have been run in the morning, when the faint popping of a six shooter, supplemented by a distant roar of "Grub! Oh, grub!" announces the hour for dinner. Spectators and racers rush back to the plaza.

Back of one of the principal saloons, between it and the base of the mountain, a long trench has been dug and filled with mesquite wood, burned to clear, red coals. Over these coals, resting on well soaked green poles, quarters of beef have been roasting for the last 12 hours.

Soon there is a general movement toward a corral at the foot of the plaza, where the principal business of the day, from a sporting standpoint, is to begin.

Twenty feet in front of the corrals a long line has been drawn in the sand, then an interval of 40 yards and another. A little to one side the timekeeper, watch in hand, sits on his horse.

The bars are lowered and a long legged red cow is allowed to escape. Across the space she runs like a greyhound. The instant she crosses the second line the vaquero plunges in his big spurs and starts in pursuit, his riata whistling around his head.

The Mexican makes no second attempt. The loss of time caused by his first failure would prevent his winning the coveted prize. So he sulkily withdraws, and his place is taken by another, who sits with straining eagerness as a gray bull is sent careering across the dead line.

"Off fore foot," he cries as his pony springs forward. Then follows a quick cast, a couple of turns around the saddlehorn, and the horse braces back, tucking his head well down to keep it out of the way—while the bull, his flight suddenly arrested, turns a half somersault and lands on his back, caught by the leg his captor has named.

The twilight comes at last. Dusk is soon followed by darkness in these latitudes, and hardly has it fallen when the strains of rude music announce the opening of the great social feature of the day, the ball. The ballroom is the whole upper floor of the hotel. The walls are of rough adobe, the floor of unplanned planks.

There are about 20 girls, many of them pretty and all of them dressed with a neatness and taste quite remarkable when one considers their limited resources.

The men are all dressed for the occasion, each in the manner that happens to suit his fancy. Many retain their spurs, in which they are popularly supposed to sleep.

Dance follows dance in rapid succession. The measured pounding of the feet as they noisily caper over the resounding boards almost drowns the music. It is thoroughly enjoyed until nearly day-break, when the company disperses.

BIRDS OF PEACE IN WAR.

How the Homing Pigeon is Used to Bear Messages from Our Warships.

A series of most interesting experiments has been made during the past five or six years with the pigeons at the Naval Academy. There has been no appropriation for this work, and the loft has been conducted by private contributions from officers at the Naval Academy, and has been managed entirely by several officers and professors at Annapolis, who have given over their time and their labor in the hope of convincing the people at Washington of the desirability of the service.

Prof. Marion, an instructor in French at the Naval Academy, who has studied the habits of homing pigeons most carefully, has had most to do with this work, and to him perhaps the greatest credit is due for the ultimate success of the scheme.

The trusts are to be directly represented in the Cabinet. Mr. E. A. Hitchcock, of Missouri, now Ambassador to Russia, who was nominated to succeed Mr. Bliss as Secretary of the Interior, and confirmed by the Senate a few minutes before adjournment for the Christmas recess, is the head of the plate glass trust and a multi-millionaire.

The administration has decided that 50,000 more volunteers may safely be mustered out, and it will be done as fast as possible. The Hull bill, which ought really to be known as the Alger-Corbin bill, for recognizing and increasing the regular army, has been reported favorably to the House by a strict party vote in the Military Committee.

The House Committee on Appropriations loses two of its members to furnish Governors for Texas and for Pennsylvania. Before Congress adjourned for the Christmas recess the Committee unanimously adopted resolutions setting forth the esteem of the Committee for Hon. Joseph D. Sayers, Governor elect of Texas, and Hon. Wm. A. Stone, Governor-elect of Pennsylvania.

Under the latitude allowed in debate when the House is in Committee of the Whole, Representative Williams, of Mississippi, made a strong speech against the annexation of the Philippines, which he declared would be a mistake, whether viewed from a social, a political, or a material standpoint.

Senator Butler, of North Carolina, has given notice of his intention to offer an amendment to the pension appropriation bill that will give Confederate soldiers and sailors precisely the same status under the pension laws as those of the United States.

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent. WASHINGTON, Dec. 26th, 1898.

Gingerly as the War Investigating Commission handled Gen. Miles, who shocked them at the beginning of his testimony by declining to be sworn, he managed to say that much suffering in the Santiago campaign was the result of General Shafter's failure to obey orders; that the Commissary General was inefficient, and to twit the commission for not having "got onto" the "embalmed" beef sent to his men in Porto Rico, against his protest, in order that contractors, favored by the War Department, might pocket big profits.

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Gen. Henderson, Chairman of the home Judiciary committee, to which Representative Bailey's resolution for investigation and report as to whether any member of the House had forfeited his seat by accepting office under government, asked the House to order the resolution referred to the committee on Rules, and it was done.

The members of the Committee on Rules are Speaker Reed, Henderson, of Iowa, and Dalzell, of Pa., Republican.

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THE MARKETS. BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.

Table with columns: CORRECTED WEEKLY. RETAIL PRICES. Butter per lb., Eggs per dozen, Lard per lb., Ham per pound, Pork, whole, per pound, Beef, quarter, per pound, Wheat per bushel, Oats, Rye, Wheat flour per bbl., Hay per ton, Potatoes per bushel, Turnips, Onions, Sweet potatoes per peck, Tallow per lb., Shoulder, Side meat, Vinegar, per qt., Dried apples per lb., Dried cherries, bottled, Raspberries, Cow Hides per lb., Steer, Calf Skin, Sheep pelts, Shelled corn per bus., Corn meal, cwt., Bran, Chop, Middlings, Chickens per lb new, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks.

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